

## Claims

- [c1] An aspiration biopsy needle, comprising:
- a needle of elongate, hollow construction having a proximal end and a beveled distal end;
  - said needle having a uniform diameter along its extent;
  - said beveled distal end forming a first sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is inserted into said tissue, said needle being displaced from a proximal position to a distal position during insertion;
  - a first slot formed in said needle near said beveled distal end;
  - said first slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;
  - said first slot also being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said slot is positioned distal to an opening of said slot;
  - said opening of said first slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;
  - said first slot including a second sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a distal position to a proximal position;
  - a second slot formed in said needle, said second slot being in longitudinally spaced apart relation to said first

slot;  
said second slot being transversely disposed relative to a longitudinal axis of said needle;  
said second slot being angled relative to a transverse axis of said needle such that a bottom of said second slot is positioned proximal to an opening of said second slot;  
said opening of said second slot being in open communication with an exterior surface of said needle;  
said second slot including a third sharp edge that scrapes tissue when said needle is displaced from a proximal position to a distal position; and  
means for communicating a vacuum to said proximal end of said needle so that tissue scraped by said first and third sharp edges during proximal-to-distal travel of said needle is pulled into a lumen of said needle and so that tissue scraped by said second sharp edge during distal-to-proximal travel of said needle is also pulled into said lumen.

[c2] The needle of claim 1, wherein said slot has a circumferential extent of about one half the circumference of said needle.

[c3] The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is elevated with respect to an exterior surface of said needle.

- [c4] The needle of claim 1, wherein said second sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.
- [c5] The needle of claim 1, wherein said third sharp edge is elevated with respect to an exterior surface of said needle.
- [c6] The needle of claim 1, wherein said third sharp edge is recessed with respect to said exterior surface of said needle.
- [c7] The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge means to which said second sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said second sharp edge.
- [c8] The needle of claim 1, further comprising a hinge means to which said third sharp edge is mounted to enable pivotal movement of said third sharp edge.
- [c9] The needle of claim 1, wherein a material to which said tissue clings is applied to said first, second, and third sharp edges.